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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Branch of Wildland Fire
Fire Management Program Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

December 8, 2016

Memorandum

To: Fire Management Officers

From: Branch Chief, Wildland Fire /s/ **Dan Buckley**

Subject: Fiscal Year 2017 Implementation of Department of the Interior Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program

The intent of this memo and the attached documents is to provide continued guidance on the Department of Interior Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program (DOI MSP) for National Park Service arduous duty wildland firefighters.

Phased implementation of contracted medical examination services continues with incorporation of the last NPS units into the contract beginning September 30, 2016. NPS units, employees and Casual Hires will no longer use the Annual Exam process and will receive CHSi provided medical examinations for all wildland fire arduous duties. These units are referred to as Phase III parks. Phase I and II parks will continue using CHSi exams for new employees and the Self Certification process as described in the following link for those who had a CHSi exam as part of Phase I or II:

http://www.nifc.gov/medical_standards/Program/index.html. Exam frequency standards and Self Certification process will apply to all employment types. Specific guidance for all of the parks can be found at the link above.

Guidance for collateral duty Law Enforcement Rangers and Structure Firefighters can be found in the attached document.

All arduous duty wildland firefighters in the Phase III parks will receive an exam through CHSi in Fiscal Year 2017 and includes the following employment categories who are carrying arduous duty qualifications (as determined by the PMS310-1, Wildland Fire Qualifications System Guide or the latest Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement):

- Incumbent employees
- All new permanent employees (permanent full-time, career seasonal, term, or Pathways interns)
- All temporary employees
- All arduous duty Casual Hire (Administratively Determined) firefighters

- All collateral duty arduous wildland firefighters (as evidenced by guidance issued in NPS HR Bulletin 13-0, and use of Attachment #4).

Militia Firefighters (also known as collateral duty)

Permanent employees who are new militia/collateral duty firefighters must undergo an exam. Temporary employees who are militia firefighters must also undergo an exam. While the exam is not a condition of hire or employment for these responders it is a condition of performing arduous duty wildland fire work. Again, exam frequency standards and the Self Certification process will apply to militia firefighters including temporary employees.

Exams performed under the contract will be paid by a national level billing process. Neither parks nor individuals should pay for an exam conducted by CHSi. Please do not pay any invoices for exam. Contact Sheila Williams at sheila_williams@nps.gov if there are issues in billing. Any follow-up medical exams that are needed to determine the WLFF's medical status are done at the cost of the WLFF.

For parks and offices in which affected employees are represented by labor unions, prior to implementation of this policy, applicable bargaining unit obligations must be met. Please provide appropriate notice of this change in working conditions to affected employees. For further information and assistance and/or if the park receives notice of a request to bargain, contact David Davies, Chief, Division of Labor and Employee Relations, Washington Office, at (202) 354-1969 or dave_davies@nps.gov.

The Risk Mitigation/Waiver process has not changed from previous years and is the same for all arduous duty wildland firefighters. Management signatures are required to be completed by the Superintendent, or delegated Line Officer, for all risk decisions. See the attached document 1st Level Risk Mitigation/Waiver Process for a quick reference including roles and responsibilities. All risk mitigations/waivers must be reviewed by Miranda Stuart (Miranda_Stuart@nps.gov) prior to any signatures being obtained.

Questions may be addressed to the DOI Wildland Firefighter MSP at 1-888-286-2521 or wlfcsr@blm.gov, by contacting your regional Wildland Firefighter MSP lead, or NPS Wildland Fire Operations Specialist, Miranda Stuart at (850)728-8200 or Miranda_stuart@nps.gov. Questions related to FBMS should be directed to Sheila Williams at 208-387-5203 or Sheila_Williams@nps.gov.

Attachment: Law Enforcement Ranger and Structure Firefighter Guidance

Cc: Bill Kaage, Division Chief, Fire and Aviation Management, FMPC
 Chad Fisher, Acting Operations Program Leader, FMPC
 Miranda Stuart, Wildland Fire Operations Specialist, FMPC
 Sheila Williams, Administrative Officer, FMPC
 Christine Peters, National Incident Business Lead, FMPC
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 Larry K. McCray, DOI Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program Manager, NIFC
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